

Oral History Cover Sheet

Name: Wilhelm Fuchs

Date of Interview: July 19, 2002

Location of Interview: Vinton, Iowa

Interviewer: Dorothe Norton

Approximate years worked for Fish and Wildlife Service:

Offices and Field Stations Worked, Positions Held: Game Management Agent at Merced, California (San Joaquin Valley); Agent for Klamath Falls, Oregon; Departmental Management Training Program in Washington, D.C.; Agent at Port Clinton, Ohio (Erie marshes); Agent in Charge, Lansing, Michigan; Senior Resident Agent, San Francisco, California; Agent in Region 3, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Most Important Projects: Running drive banding crews in Canada in Alberta and Saskatchewan Provinces; botulism controls, avian disease controls, depredation controls

Colleagues and Mentors: Robert Meyerding, Herb Duncan, Howard Cantrell, Bud Elder, Ray Soustrom, Bill Tierry, Ed Bosak, Flick Davis, Bob Hodgins, Tom Garrett

Most Important Issues: crop depredations; short of help

Brief Summary of Interview: Mr. Fuchs starts off talking about early life, parents, hobbies, and joining the military. Mr. Fuchs would go to work as a State Conservation Officer in Iowa before joining the Fish and Wildlife Service. He talks about going to Treasury School, his highs and lows, working long hours, issues and projects he worked on, and the changes in the organization.

Keywords: history, biography, employee, military, law enforcement, refuges, Special Agent in Charge, management, banding, waterfowl, migratory birds, Pacific Flyway

National Heritage Team of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Oral History Program
Subject/USFW Retiree: Wilhelm Fuchs
Date: July 19, 2002
Interviewed by: Dorothe Norton

Dorothe Norton:
...for you to have me here to conduct this interview.

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Well, I'm glad you came around Dorothe.

Dorothe Norton:
Thank you. And so we're just going to ask some pretty general questions, you can answer what you want. Anything you don't want to say or have anything to say about it, you can just say, "no comment" no problem.

So we'll start out with your personal information like your birthplace and the date.

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Well, I was born here in Vinton, Iowa, February 12, 1927.

Dorothe Norton:
Very good. Your parent's names were?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Joe and Ursula Fuchs.

Dorothe Norton:
What were their jobs and education?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Dad and mom both came from Germany; came over on a boat in 1914. Dad was a tailor, a master tailor by profession. My mother was a seamstress and housewife.

Dorothe Norton:
Good. Where did you spend, where and how did you spend your early years as a child?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
As a child I was right here in this area. My folks lived on a farm just out of town, and dad had a business in town and my brother sort of did the farm work on 100-acres of land. I went to country school up until seventh grade. They didn't have enough kids to keep the school going out there, so I had to come into the big city school and go from seventh grade on.

Dorothe Norton:

Did you have any hobbies or books or any events that influenced you while you were a child?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh yes, I was... Ever since I can remember I was an ardent hunter and fisherman. I just read every sporting magazine I could lay my hands on, and I fished and hunted and trapped, and was enamored with things about airplanes and that sort of thing. That was my whole scheme of things as a kid in school.

Dorothe Norton:

Good. Did you have any jobs as a child?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I worked for my dad on the farm doing farm chores. Then I used to come home from school every night, come to the store and help him at his tailor and dry cleaning shop. There was a lot of busy work to do, but that's what I did. As a matter-of-fact, he used to, even in high school, pretty well time me from the time that school was out until I'd get down to the store because he was from the old country, he believed that kids should work all the time, keep busy.

Dorothe Norton:

Well that's good. So I'm assuming now that you graduated from high school here in Benton.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Yes.

Dorothe Norton:

What year did you graduate?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

In 1944.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. Then what university did you attend?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, after I came home from the service I went to University of Iowa, and went on the GI Bill and majored in pharmacy. I went two years and then quit school to work for awhile with intentions of going back to get my degree but I never finished.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. So what branch of the armed services were you in?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

In the Navy, I was in the Air Arm, the Navy. I served as an aviation radio man and aerial gunner in a dive bomber group.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. How many years were you...?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Two years.

Dorothe Norton:

Two years?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Yes; I went in immediately on graduation from high school in 1944, and I went down the same month to enlist in the Navy. I was only 17 at the time, so my dad had to sign for me to let me get in. But that was for four years, and I wanted to go.

Dorothe Norton:

Well that's good. Overseas too did you?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

No I didn't, all of my service was stateside. As a matter-of-fact, I was just ready to go overseas as a replacement aircrew on carriers when they dropped the bomb. So everything was on hold and all I had to look forward to becoming a civilian again.

Dorothe Norton:

What duty stations did you have?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

At Memphis, Tennessee, the naval air station in Memphis, Tennessee and the naval air station in Jacksonville, Florida. I finished up at naval air at Anacostia based out of Washington, D.C.

Dorothe Norton:

Did the military service relate in any way to your employment with the Service?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, not really, other than I had Veterans' Preference when I took the examination for the game management agent.

Dorothe Norton:

So what aspect of your formal education, back to the college, equipped you for the future, if any?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, not a whole lot. After two years in pharmacy school I sort of realized that that was not really what I wanted to do with my life. So I looked forward to doing something else, and eventually went to work for the state of Iowa as a conservation officer. That's what steered me into the position in the Bureau.

Dorothe Norton:

Now when, where, and how did you meet your wife?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh gosh, that would have been in 19... Well, I got out of the service in '46, and I guess I met Barbara in '47. She was a senior in high school and we were dating, and just the usual small town thing.

Dorothe Norton:

Oh good. When and where did you marry?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

We got married in August of 1950, right here in Vinton.

Dorothe Norton:

Oh good, very good. Do you have any children?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Yes, we have one son.

Dorothe Norton:

His name is?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Our son's name is William Lee, and he presently lives in Michigan and works for the Michigan DNR in the wildlife division.

Dorothe Norton:

His name is William and not Wilhelm?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

His name is William, right.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. So why did you want to work for the Service?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I guess because I really liked my work as a state conservation officer, and my duty station was Fort Madison Iowa, which was also a duty station for Fish and Wildlife Service

agents. I was influenced by a couple of agents that I worked with, Robert Meyerding, now deceased, and then Herb Duncan, who was the agent there. I knew Herb the longest, and he worked with me a lot and I think that was the thing that influenced me to want to go to work for Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. So your first professional position was with the state, and then you came to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Right.

Dorothe Norton:

What was your position, the first one you had with Fish and Wildlife?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

The first position was... Well, I had taken the exam for agent and was fairly high on the list but I wanted to go to work and I found out that I could transfer my eligibility to another civil service region if I wanted. I knew they were hiring out in Region 1, so I transferred my eligibility out there and was hired on as a game management agent at Merced, California, the San Joaquin Valley.

Dorothe Norton:

What did you do there?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I worked ducks. Yes, what was it? San Joaquin Valley had something like 350 private gun clubs back-to-back in a 30-mile stretch and a great wintering population of migratory birds, and between the hunting season and the depredations and the banding assignments to Canada, why I was busy year-round.

Dorothe Norton:

Sounds like it, okay. Then where did you go from there?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

They transferred me from there up to Klamath Falls, Oregon. Klamath Falls took in southern Oregon and the strip across northern California two counties deep; Tule Lake and Klamath Basin. I think there were in my district 6 national wildlife refuges in the district I had. The focal point for all the migrating waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway was the Klamath Basin. The birds came down like the neck of a funnel, they funneled right through Klamath Basin and Tule Lake before they spread out to go further south in California.

Dorothe Norton:

From there you progressed to?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, from there I took a tour to Washington, D.C. for a year on a departmental management training program. I went there and worked out of the office in D.C. under the secretary's office for a year and then came back to Klamath Falls. I applied for a transfer to Region 3, and went to Port Clinton, Ohio, to the Erie Marshes as agent.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. What kind of positions? Were you always just as agent in all of these positions?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, no. I was there about a year and a half or two years in Port Clinton, and they transferred me to Lansing, Michigan to be agent in charge of the state of Michigan. I was in that position for seven years, and then bureau's reorganization came about and they asked me to go to San Francisco as senior resident agent in San Francisco.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. From there you...?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

From there I wanted to come back to Region 3, so I came back to Michigan to Grand Rapids as a position as an agent.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. What were the pay and benefits like when you started with Fish and Wildlife Service?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh gee, I was getting... Let's see I was working for the state of Iowa for \$3,000.00 a year and I believe when I went to work for Fish and Wildlife Service it was \$1,000.00 a year pay raise, so I was making about \$4,000.00 a year then. I thought the benefits were great because the state never gave us any real working tools, and here I was able to go to work for an organization that actually furnished boots and waders and a good vehicle and boats and motors, and I didn't have that stuff with the state. They furnished a state car and a boat and a motor, and anything else that you wanted why you had to purchase out of your own funds. So I was really delighted with working for the Bureau.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. The promotion opportunities while you were working? I know you were a senior resident agent and then you came back down to a regular agent, was that your choice?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

That was my choice. The San Francisco area was just too busy and California seemed to have changed so much and I had really loved Michigan and the work as the agent there, so I wanted to go back. I knew I wasn't going to be able to work too long and I'd be out on mandatory retirement at age 55. So the pay difference was negligible when you take in effect a demotion that you know you can... Your pay only goes to the next step in the

highest grade that you're going to. So actually pay-wise I never lost any money out of it. So it was nice to go back to Michigan, so that's what I did.

Dorothe Norton:

That's good. Did you socialize with the people that you worked with?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

The agents, yes to some extent, and I always socialized a lot with the state people. I thought that working, representing the Fish and Wildlife Service that it was your responsibility to socialize and work with the state conservation agency. I always tried to get together with the state people, whether they were field people or the supervisory personnel and put to the best the Fish and Wildlife Service forward. You wanted them to do a lot of your work so you'd better show them that you were willing to do something at the federal level that would aid the states.

Dorothe Norton:

What did you do for recreation in the field?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Not a whole lot. I worked until after dark and come back to the motel and had a couple of drinks and go out for a quick dinner of fried chicken. Then I would get up again before daylight to go out and work some more.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. How did your career affect your family?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I was very fortunate that I had a wife that was understanding and didn't mind being alone because I was continually on assignment, either somewhere within the country or out of the country, and she and our son spent an awful lot of time alone. As a matter-of-fact, one year my son was actually in three different schools in one school year, that's the year that I went into D.C. He started the school year in Pennsylvania because there was no housing to be had in D.C. Then when I did finally find housing he came in and went to a parochial school in Virginia for awhile. Then when I went back to my duty station, he finished up the last few weeks of schools in Oregon. It was tough on the family; I moved a lot, the family was uprooted at a minute's notice to take the transfer somewhere. We always did it without, really without a question. I never turned down a transfer you know. These transfers were, they started out as requests, and maybe you could turn one down and say, "No, I don't want to leave." But you knew you were going to have to leave anyway sooner or later, so. But it was good experience.

Dorothe Norton:

That's good. You left the Service because of retirement?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Yes.

Dorothe Norton:
You were a special agent?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Yes, that's right as a special agent.

Dorothe Norton:
Okay. What kind of training did you receive for your job?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Lot's of training. I think I was in the first group of agents that ever went to the Treasury School. At that time they held the training school, it was six or eight weeks in Washington, D.C., and I was in the first group of agents that ever attended that. Then periodically after that, you know, over the years they had training seminars at Glynco, Georgia and other places I think. Then while I was in the departmental management training school I was able to pick and choose a number training programs that I thought might benefit my career such as management of police personnel and different programs like that I was able to work in. So there is a wealth of training.

Dorothe Norton:
Well that's good. What kind of hours did you work?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Oh boy, I worked all the time. Working for the state, the state had a policy that you had to work 6 days a week, you could have one day a week off provided it wasn't on Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. Pretty much the same was true with the Fish and Wildlife Service except it really wasn't in writing, but I worked six to seven days a week and long hours. I would receive orders to go on banding trip to Canada for instance. I was always a crew leader up there and we'd worked seven days a week in the duck fields, and that was always a six week program. Sometimes I'd go to the Puget Sound area on fisheries patrol, working out of Neah Bay or Port Angeles, Washington as enforcement officer on a Coast Guard cutter or Bureau Patrol boat, and that was a seven day a week thing.

Dorothe Norton:
Longer than 8 hours in a day?

Wilhelm Fuchs:
Oh yes, yes. I think that during the waterfowl seasons in the field, as long as the water fowl season was open my usual procedure, and this was as agent in charge of the state, I would do work in the office on Monday. Then I'd head for the field and work right through 'til the following weekend, and then pretty much work seven days a week and average 10, 12, sometimes 14 hours a day. But what are you going to do? If you're out on assignment, there's no use in taking a day off.

Dorothe Norton:

What tools and instruments did you use in your job?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, Fish and Wildlife Service was great, that they would give you all of the tools you need. Maybe not all that you want, but they gave you all that you needed. I had boats and motors, good equipment to work with. Necessary binoculars and spotting scopes and side arms and foul-weather gear and boots and waders, and they furnished just about anything and everything you would need.

Dorothe Norton:

Did you work with animals?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Sure.

Dorothe Norton:

How did you feel about the animals?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I thought that animals were my career, and I just lived, breathed, and ate duck pretty much all the time. I felt like it was the responsibility of our office to see to it that the regulations were adhered to and that we were a few people doing a state-size job out there. I love to work and I really, really like the wildlife, whether it was waterfowl or upland game or big game animals. I spent an awful lot of time during the off waterfowl season working with the state fish and game personnel. When the deer season was open I'd be working the opening of deer season with them. During the summertime I worked fishing with the state officers. The feeling was that if you're going to ask them to spend their time on waterfowl during the fall, well you'd better get out and assist them during the summer a little bit on their local regulations.

Dorothe Norton:

What did you receive locally, regionally, federally?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I always had real good rapport with the state organizations. I think I knew every office and state officers in my district, and I would make it a point to try to get around and work with everyone of them. I got good response and it did a lot to enhance our enforcement program over the years. With the other agents in the field, people in Fish and Wildlife Service were just a great bunch. Not only law enforcement agents but the people in refuges were just outstanding. I can't tell you how pleased I was to work with a lot of those people. In California the refuge personnel, when I was having problems in the rice fields with late shooting, the refuge personnel would put in their days work at the refuge. Then in the evening they would go out and spend an hour with me in the rice fields corralling the violators out there. That's the sort of people we had with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Dorothe Norton:

That's very good. How do you think that the Service was perceived by people outside the agency?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I don't think that as a general rule the public, at least in the years I worked, the public really didn't know what Fish and Wildlife Service was. They viewed anything in conservation as kind of a state organization. I don't think in former years that the bureau tooted their horn enough to let the public know exactly what they did and what they stood for. This has changed a lot and now you see on television programs that tout some of the bureau's activities, and that's what we need.

Dorothe Norton:

Right, okay. Okay Bill, what projects were you involved in?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

What projects? You mean what...?

Dorothe Norton:

Any special projects, like canvasbacks or Canadian geese or...

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh, well yeah, in the banding work I spent seven summers on running drive banding crews in Canada in Alberta in Saskatchewan. In the early years we were pretty much involved in a diver study up there. The object was to trap as many scaup and canvasback as possible, and we did very little with mallards and teal and that sort of thing, but the emphasis in those years was on divers and we used to trap about 10,000 ducks in six weeks time. That was about the average for a crew that I would have up there. That would keep you busy.

There were all kinds of projects that a person would get into. In California control botulism control, and control avian diseases were a big part of our work. I'd spend during the summer months endless weeks in areas in the Central Valley of California where you were having huge die-offs of ducks due to botulism. It was gathering up birds and inoculating them with an anti-toxin, and keeping birds off of affected areas by using everything from airplane herding to supplemental feeding. That was a real eye opener too.

Depredations control was a big, big part of your work that took a lot of time. I was responsible for seeing to it that we acquired commodity credit surplus grain for feeding waterfowl prior to the duck openings to lure the birds off the rice fields. They would get in there and just absolutely devastate rice crops in California. Through aerial herding we would try to keep them driven off, and lure them to others areas with grain that was spread out from a crop duster.

But just an awful lot of work like that, not only with waterfowl but with other migratory birds. Control on the coots in the Central Valley was a big thing. I was responsible for issuing depredation permits on, actually kill permits to kill coots during the closed season. We'd kill tens of thousands of birds that were depredating the farmers pasture lands. Band-tailed pigeon depredation was another thing and sandhill cranes. So there was a whole myriad of things in the depredations work that kept you busy. That was at least until Wildlife Services finally took over the depredations control from us.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. What were some of the major issues that you had to deal with? How were those issues resolved?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Probably some of the major issues were over crop depredations and what I just related to and how we tried to resolve that. The ranchers many times would just arbitrarily kill the ducks and the geese that they felt were invading their croplands. There some arrests and horrendous court battles over that. Nothing was ever easy.

Dorothe Norton:

Has your perspective or opinion on that issue changed with time?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, not really. A lot of the issues as relate to crop depredations and water use; those issues are still out there and remain virtually unchanged because the problems still crop up year after year. I don't know what we could do differently now than we were doing then.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay. What was the major impediment to your job or your career?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I'm not sure that there were any major impediments that an employee didn't bring on himself. I would over the years maybe get frustrated at the workload and try to hope for a change of duty station somewhere, but it always turned out there was another workload just like that somewhere else. We were always short of help, you know we never had enough agents in the field to do the job and we always had vacant duty stations. So things, you know, always stayed about the same.

Dorothe Norton:

Who were your supervisors?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, when I first started out at the local level my first supervisor was Howard Cantrell at Fresno as agent in charge, and then later on Bud Elder at Los Angeles. Ray Soustrom was the regional supervisor in Portland and after he passed away Bill Thierry came from the Washington office and was the regional supervisor in Portland. When I transferred to

Region 3, I worked under Ed Bosak at Port Clinton, and Flick Davis was the regional supervisor in Minneapolis and later on Bob Hodgins, and he was my regional supervisor until I retired.

Dorothe Norton:

Who were any individuals who shaped your career?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh, I think they all did.

Dorothe Norton:

Oh good.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I think they all did. Guys like Howard Cantrell. Tom Garrett was my supervisor in Oregon, a fine gentleman. Yes, I looked up to those guys, they could do no wrong and they didn't; a great bunch of people.

Dorothe Norton:

That's good. Who were some of the people you know outside of the Service? Do you think they would be able to work for the Service today?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I recommended several people outside the Service to work for the Service. Tom Wharton was a personal friend and I recommended him and he became an agent. There were, well there were two or three other state people that I thought did an incredible for the state and gave them a recommendation, they applied for federal work.

Dorothe Norton:

Well that's good. Do you remember presidents, secretary of interior, or director of the Service you served under?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, sure. Boy senior moments! All of the sudden names escape me but I do remember President Kennedy. As a matter-of-fact I was in Washington, D.C. during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and I remember being in church a couple mornings when the FBI or Secret Service pulled up and Kennedy came in to attend mass. That was kind of a highlight. That's one that sticks out in my memory.

Dorothe Norton:

How did the changes in administrations affect your work?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Not a whole lot except funding for the bureau, in different administrations sometimes the bureau would be more flush than they were at other times. Whenever funding was limited there was always a shuffle, I thought, among the field agents. Duty stations were

closed down for salary savings purposed and people were shifted around to cover here and there, the most important posts. That was the main thing. When money was short you knew that the workload was going to be heavier and the duty stations were going to be changed.

Dorothe Norton:

In your opinion Bill, who were the individuals you think who shaped the Service?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh, I think the secretary of the interiors; their programs really clearly shaped the Service for the years that the individual secretary's were in. They probably had the most affect.

Dorothe Norton:

So what was the highpoint in your career?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Being agent in charge of Michigan.

Dorothe Norton:

Very good.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Yes, without question. I loved every year that I worked in that position and I almost cried when I had to leave because I knew all of the state people. I knew exactly what was going on, where work needed to be done. I really did not want to leave that post.

Dorothe Norton:

Then what was the low point in your career?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I think when I had to go out to San Francisco. I'm not really a big city guy and the "megopolis" got to me I guess. I lived at Santa Clara, and my duty station was up at Burlingame. There were three highways running up the coastline there, the only way to get San Francisco, and no matter which one you took it was bumper to bumper, and bumper cars going to work. Then you'd get up to the office and you'd spend the day tooling around San Francisco, to the docks, to the airport on the endangered species work and the import work, and then coming home at night. It didn't matter out there whether it was 6:00 a.m., high-noon, midnight, or 6:00 p.m., the traffic was just the same. Bumper to bumper wherever you went. I guess that was the low point of things for me and it made me think I've got to get out of here and go back where we're not, you know, where there's a little room to breathe.

Dorothe Norton:

What was your most dangerous or frightening experience?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Okay yeah, I've had a number of them. I guess it's just the inherent dangers of working like a person works. When my boat struck an object in the Mississippi River at midnight one night during high water it knocked me down and out of the boat. The motor was running full tilt in the middle of the channel, and I was hanging on to the side of the boat, trying to crawl back in. I had no life preserver on; the life preserver was in the boat but not on my person. That was scary. I had a few run-ins with people that we were trying to apprehend over in Illinois one time, some spring duck hunters, it was Herb Duncan and I and a state officer. Two guys drew down on us with shotguns and threatened to kill us and two of us weren't armed. You know, just things like that you get into. It's scary.

Dorothe Norton:

Well, what was your most humorous experience?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh gee, there's a ton of those. A lot of apprehensions that you made that... Ridiculous the things people will do and the situations that you get into. The time I pulled up to a boat of fisherman to check their license, a man and woman in the boat and she was obviously sunbathing and didn't have a top on and never batted an eye --- that just blew my mind! But yeah, there were a lot of them. A week never went that there wasn't some humorous incident.

Dorothe Norton:

Well that's good. What would you like to tell others about your career and about Fish and Wildlife Service?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh, I think Fish and Wildlife Service is a great organization, a great bunch of people to work with. There's a lot of potential to enhance your career. There's always another step up if you want to do the work and take the lumps that come with it. Don't crap too much when they ask you to do something, go ahead and do it without complaining. You can go far with the Fish and Wildlife Service. I have no regrets. By golly, I would do it all over again, I really would.

Dorothe Norton:

Well that's good, I think I would too. What were some of the changes that you observed in the Service, like in the personnel and in the environment?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I guess the biggest change came with the reorganization. When we got out of the management phase of the work, which I enjoyed as much as I did the law enforcement work, and I saw a big change there. You had to revamp your whole thinking to meet the needs of the new programs. That was probably the biggest change that I saw. I think the personnel now are better trained. They come to the bureau with better training than they did in the early days. That's only because I think people in general, I guess, are more educated and have better backgrounds when they apply for jobs.

Dorothe Norton:

What are your thoughts on the future as far as Fish and Wildlife Service? And where do you think the Service is heading in the next decade?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I would hope that the Service would keep focused on wildlife as a place that is kind of tuned not only by government agencies but by the public. By that I mean the hunters and fisherman of this country really have been responsible in aiding the conservation...

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TAPE 2: CONTINUED...

Wilhelm Fuchs:

... The bureau better not ever lose sight of the fact that the people that are interested in hunting and fishing in this country are also interested in the wildlife other than a thing just for sport. We should never look at the sportsman of the country as the enemy. They're really the people that, in the long run, are going to make the difference of whether we're going to have ducks around in the future.

Dorothe Norton:

Do you have any photographs or documents that you'd care to donate or share or copy? I know you have a lot of slides...

Wilhelm Fuchs:

I have a lot of 35-mm slides and...

Dorothe Norton:

This would probably be up to where would we use these tapes, if they would ask you if you'd care to...

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh yeah, I'm sure that, you know, every one of us has got colored slides. Refuge people have a ton of slides of wildlife. I guess probably the things that I have would have would be personnel pictures of agents and people and state personnel that somebody else might never have.

Dorothe Norton:

And some banding slides.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Yes.

Dorothe Norton:

Who else do you feel that we should interview?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I would hope you'd interview people with the refuges. They are really instrumental in maintaining our wildlife around the country and all the different divisions of the bureau. Or do you mean individuals?

Dorothe Norton:

Individuals, any special individuals you feel we really should interview?

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, with the refuge division, a fellow that's got a lot of background and has been really around and is still working with wildlife some is Eldon McLaury up in Madison, Wisconsin. Eldon would be a great guy.

Dorothe Norton:

Well, I'm going to try and do people, not because it's necessary, but like Art Hawkins and Harvey Nelson. They are a little older than you are, plus the fact the jobs that they had, especially Harvey Nelson, were very important. I'm sure that they'll want that all on tape. Of course I'd love to do all of law enforcement, but I promised I wouldn't just concentrate on law enforcement. But that was my extended family, still is my extended family.

So I want to thank you Bill. It's the end of the interview, and thank you very much for your time.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Well, I'm sure glad you came down Dorothe.

Dorothe Norton:

I hope we'll see you again next year.

Wilhelm Fuchs:

Oh we will, we'll be there.

Dorothe Norton:

Okay, thank you so much.

KEY WORDS: Wilhelm Fuchs, conservation officer, Fort Madison, Iowa Fish and Wildlife Service station, Robert Meyerding, Herbert Duncan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Merced, California, San Joaquin Valley, game management agent, migratory waterfowl, Klamath Falls, Oregon, Tule Lake, Klamath Basin, Pacific Flyway, Region 3, Port Clinton, Ohio, Lake Erie Marsh region, Lansing, Michigan, San Francisco, senior resident agent, Grand Rapids, Treasury School, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Georgia, duck banding, Puget Sound, fisheries patrol, Neah Bay, Port Angeles, enforcement officer, waterfowl season, drive banding, Alberta, Saskatchewan, diver study, scaup, canvasback, mallard, teal, Central Valley,

California, botulism control, avian disease control, anti-toxin inoculation, airplane herding, supplemental feeding control, depredations control, commodity credit surplus grain, aerial herding, American Coot, depredation permits, kill permits, band-tailed pigeon, sandhill crane, crop depredations, Howard Cantrell, Tom Garrett, Bob Hodgins, Tom Horton, Ed Bosak, Flick Davis, Burlingame, California, endangered species work, Eldon McLaury, Art Hawkins, Harvey Nelson, Bud Elder, Ray Soustrom, Bill Thierry